

-2-

Claims 1-4 are provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 10/094,686. The Examiner states that while the claims are not identical, the claims are not patentably distinct.

A terminal disclaimer over U.S. Application No. 10/094,686 is being filed with this Reply. The filing of the terminal disclaimer renders the rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Pamela A. Torpey
Pamela A. Torpey
Registration No. 45,736
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: March 9, 2006